

**TOK ESSAY TITLE #4:**

**“Without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished.” Consider this claim with respect to two areas of knowledge.**

**STEP 1. COMMAND TERMS**

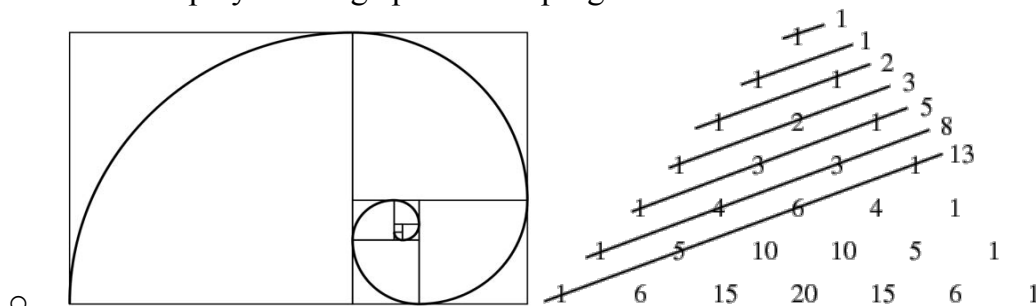
- **Consider**
  - **Definitions** (Merriam-Webster):
    - think carefully about (something), typically before making a decision
    - to take into account
    - to gaze on steadily or reflectively
    - to come to judge or classify
- This command term requires one to think, reflect, and judge the statement “without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished” in multiple perspectives and thus, come up with one’s own opinions and thoughts about the statement.

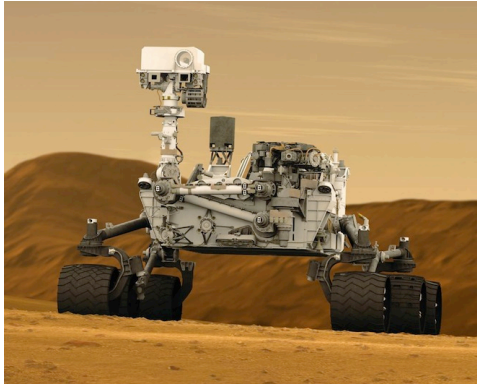
**STEP 2. KEY WORDS AND PHRASES**

- **Application**
  - **Definitions** (Merriam-Webster): An act of putting use
  - This term requires one to discuss specific examples of where knowledge is applied in the world.
- **(Value of) knowledge:**
  - The value of knowledge means the usefulness or importance of knowledge. Hence, the statement, “without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished,” is trying to say that knowledge is not useful or important without its application.
  - Now, to approach this TOK essay title, one should find examples of where application of knowledge has positively affected our world and examples of where non-application of knowledge has shown to be meaningless.
  - To provide a counterargument, one should also find examples of where pure knowledge has actually been beneficial.
- **Two areas of knowledge**
  - The TOK essay title specifically mentions one to consider the claim with respect to two areas of knowledge. Thus, one should be aware to follow this instruction.

**STEP 3. AOKS**

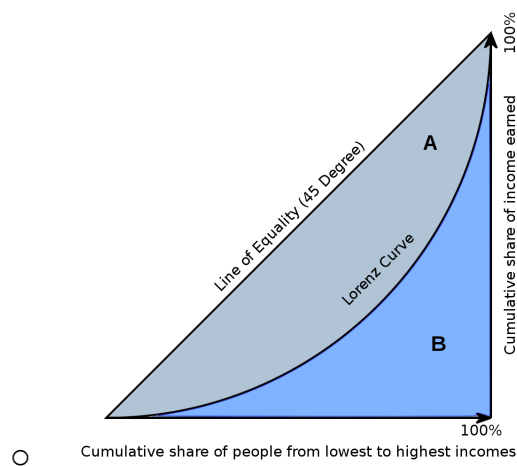
- **Math**
  - Math is a great example of where application of knowledge is crucial. For example, the golden ratio helps us understand and gain knowledge of the complex and profound nature of art. This mathematical term can be seen in different aspects of art, such as architecture, musical instruments, photography, and more. Not only art, but also music is where mathematics can be applied. In music, the Pythagorean tuning, the golden ratio, and the Fibonacci sequence all show instances where math is integrated into the arts. The Pythagorean tuning, which is based on the principle of perfect fifths, shows how musical notes are interrelated to their wavelengths, which has helped the world understand and calculate the ratio between musical notes. Also, the golden ratio, which is a ratio that helps understand the aesthetically pleasing sounds to humans, can be seen in different aspects of music, such as the western diatonic scale, the arrangements of different music pieces, and also in musical instruments. The design and structure of a violin shows a perfect instance of where the golden ratio is applied. Furthermore, math has played a large part in the progression of art.





- **Social Sciences**

- Economic theories can also be applied to the world.
- Applications of economic theories show ways in which people can better understand the world. For example, for the Lorenz curve, by inserting data into the equation, one can easily find the Gini index of country and this index help the world learn about a country's level of equality. In addition to the Gini index, the gross domestic product, net national income, human development index, and happy planet index all serves to better understand the world through various economic standpoints.



#### STEP 4. WOKS

- Imagination and reason
  - Used to invent ways to apply different studies and information

#### STEP 5. KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

- Some questions that can be explored through this essay titles are:
- To what extent have applications of knowledge instigated development?
- Can we gain more knowledge about “value of knowledge” through reason or intuition?
- To what extent have economic theories helped society understand the world better/give an holistic view of the world?
- What role does imagination play in the process of applying knowledge?

#### STEP 6. ASSUMPTIONS

- We as humans value knowledge and stress its importance.
- The rigorous education systems we have created for ourselves serves to spread and expand everyone's realms of knowledge.
- After gaining knowledge, we are encouraged to mix and combine the knowledge we have attained to create something completely new.
- These creations have helped the world develop, as they help the world attain more information and knowledge of the world we are living in.